

CIA/RR-CB-62-13

S-E-C-R-E-T

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14 February 1962

## CURRENT SUPPORT BRIEF

USSR TO START PRODUCTION OF REFRIGERATOR TRAINS

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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USSR TO START PRODUCTION OF REFRIGERATOR TRAINS

The USSR, which since 1958 has used East Germany as the sole supplier of refrigerator cars and trains for Soviet railroads, plans to produce refrigerator trains at Pavlodar, a new machine building center in Kazakhstan. A Soviet radio broadcast of 2 January 1962 indicates that production of refrigerator trains will be started at the Pavlodar Machine Building Plant during 1962. 1/

These refrigerator trains are composed of up to 20 refrigerator cars and 3 cars containing power, cooling, and service equipment. The refrigerator cars are cooled from the cooling car through accordion hose connections between the cars. In the past these trains were purchased from East Germany, and the number of imports has increased greatly during recent years. In terms of total value these refrigerator trains have been third in importance after passenger cars and electric locomotives in the list of railroad equipment imported from East Germany by the USSR.

Refrigerator Trains Imported from East Germany  
by the USSR, 1955-1960

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of trains</u>	<u>Total value in thousand old rubles</u>
1955	10	19,403
1956	4	4,600
1957	0	0
1958	14	13,300
1959	60	65,800 (14,805*)
1960	57	12,600*

\* New rubles.

There are indications that the Pavlodar Machine Building Plant, which will manufacture the refrigerator trains, as well as a number of types of chemical equipment, may have been created on the base of the Pavlodar Combine Plant. The Pavlodar Combine Plant, once scheduled to be the largest agricultural machinery plant in the Soviet Union, has been under construction since 1954; the slowness of its construction has been criticized on several occasions. The plant apparently has yet to release its first combine although a small number of grain cleaning machines have been produced since 1958 in shops already completed. In September 1960, the combine plant was renamed the Pavlodar Refrigeration and Compressor Plant, and was to become the largest producer of refrigeration and compressor equipment in the USSR. 2/ By January 1961, however, the plant had apparently been renamed The Pavlodar Combine Plant and at Khrushchev's behest

14 February 1962

CIA/RR CB-62-13

Page 2

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

was to revert to its original plan of producing combines for agriculture. 3/

The Pavlodar Machine Building Plant was first mentioned in the Soviet press as early as March 1960, 4/ six months before the announcement of the renaming of the Pavlodar Combine Plant which would seem to indicate the existence of two separate plants; however, there are striking similarities between the two. Both "plants" have produced grain cleaning machines, both are located on the northern edge of Pavlodar, both have been connected with the production of refrigeration and chemical equipment, both have had V. F. Isakov as plant director, and apparently there is still a considerable amount of construction going on at both plants. No mention of the Pavlodar Combine Plant has been noted since April 1961, however, when a radio broadcast mentioned that several sections of the plant would begin operating in 1961. 5/ It does not seem logical that a plant the size of the Pavlodar Combine Plant should be actively engaged in the production of agricultural machinery without receiving any recognition in either press or radio. It is likely, therefore, that the plan to produce grain combines at Pavlodar has again been dropped despite Khrushchev's recommendation and that the former Pavlodar Combine Plant has become the Pavlodar Machine Building Plant.

14 February 1962

CIA/RR CB-62-13

Page 3

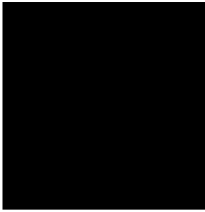
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
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Sources:

1. Gudok, 11 Jan 62, p. 1. U.


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
 FBIS 62, L 69, 2 Jan 62. OFF USE.

2. Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 15 Sep 60. U.

3. Joint Committee on Slavic Studies, Current Digest of the Soviet Press, vol. XIII, No. 3, 15 Feb 61, p. 5. U.

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4.  FBIS 60, L 1994, 21 Mar 60. OFF USE.

5.  FBIS M 3297, 5 Apr 61. OFF USE.

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14 February 1962

CIA/RR CB-62-13

Page 4

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**USSR TO START PRODUCTION OF REFRIGERATOR**

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